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STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Twenty-sixth session
4-13 February 1991
Agenda item 15

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: J. A. MWANIKI (Kenya)

Chapter ___. COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES

1. The Commission considered item 12 of its agenda at its 447th meeting, on 11 February 1991. It had before it the report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination on its thirteenth session (E/CN.3/1991/2, sects. VI-IX) and the reports of the Secretary-General on the statistical work of international organizations (E/CN.3/1991/28), on the plans of international organizations in the area of statistics (E/CN.3/1991/29) and on updated information on the work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat (E/CN.3/1991/30).

2. The Commission noted the statement made by the observer for Switzerland, in his capacity as Chairman of the Conference of European Statisticians, on strengthening international statistical cooperation, with particular reference to the region covered by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). A number of representatives spoke on the matter and the Commission, while recognizing that the issue would be discussed in various forums in Europe, decided to refer the matter to its Working Group and to consider it again at its twenty-seventh session.

3. The Commission noted the ongoing work on promoting coordination of statistical data collection activities, both regular collection by the statistical divisions of international organizations and ad hoc requests addressed to Member States for statistical information from non-statistical units of the United Nations and other

organizations. It also noted that the Working Group had concluded that considerable progress had been made among the international organizations on those issues over the past two years but had also requested specific additional steps to be taken in support of coordination of those activities.

4. The Commission recalled that it had noted under the relevant agenda items on service statistics, environment statistics and revision of SNA, the initiatives being taken by international organizations to accelerate statistical development while ensuring coordination in selected fields of statistics. The Commission requested the Working Group to review at its fourteenth session experience with those initiatives on the basis of the results that would have accumulated by that time and to report back to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session. The point was made that one of the initiatives, namely, the use of outputs of regional commissions as a basis for global work, was particularly useful as a means of transferring information. The outputs developed in one region could also be useful in another region and, in that connection, it was noted that outputs of the UNDP-supported Statistical Computing Project under the aegis of ECE were being transferred to developing countries.

Action taken by the Commission

5. The Commission:

(a) Requested the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination to consider the question of strengthening international statistical cooperation outlined in the statement by the observer for Switzerland in his capacity as Chairman of the Conference of European Statisticians;

(b) Requested the Working Group to review experiences with new initiatives taken by the international organizations to accelerate statistical development while ensuring coordination in selected fields of statistics.

6. After reviewing the proposal made by the Working Group concerning possible changes in the composition of the Group (see E/CN.3/1991/2, para. 89), the Commission decided that the Working Group would consist of the officers of the Commission, namely, the Chairman, the three Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur; the representatives to the Commission of the two major contributors to the budget of the United Nations, unless they were already represented in the Bureau; and representatives to the Commission from other Member States selected so as to ensure representation on the Working Group of both developed and developing countries, countries with different economic and statistical systems and with special attention to ensuring representation of developing countries from among the members of each of the following regional commissions: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

7. The Commission decided that the Working Group, at its fourteenth session, should consist of the following:

(a) Officers of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-sixth session:

Chairman: W. Begeer (Netherlands)

Vice-Chairmen: Eduardo Augusto Guimaraes (Brazil)
Hiroyasu Kudo (Japan)
Ivan Sujan (Czechoslovakia)

Rapporteur: Jothan Antony Mwaniki (Kenya)

(b) Representatives of States members of the Statistical Commission:

Emmanuel Oti Boateng (Ghana)
Lelia Boeri de Cervetto (Argentina)
Hermann Habermann (United States of America)
Majid Jamshidi (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
Vadim Kirichenko (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

(c) Alternates selected from representatives of States members of the Statistical Commission:

Naima Ghemires (Morocco), alternate to Emmanuel Oti Boateng (Ghana)
Miguel Cervera (Mexico), alternate to Lelia Boeri de Cervetto (Argentina)
Imtiaz A. Khan (Pakistan), alternate to Majid Jamshidi (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
Maria Teresa Sinisterra de De Leon (Panama), alternate to Eduardo Augusto Guimares (Brazil).

8. The Commission recommended that the fourteenth session of the Working Group be held at Geneva from 18 to 20 September 1991.